

Our partners in Georgia

- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Education and Science
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs
- Ministry for Refugees and Accommodation
- Ministry for Regional Development and Infrastructure
- Office of the State Minister for Reintegration
- Tbilisi City Hall
- Local authorities in the selected regions of operations
- State Foundation for Protection and Assistance of Victims of Human Trafficking
- Organic Farming Association Elkana
- Caucasus Environment NGO Network
- Other local NGOs

Our partners in Armenia

- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Education and Science
- Ministry of Emergency Situations
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
- Ministry of Territorial Administration
- Ministry of Urban Development
- Local authorities in the selected regions of operations
- Armenian Rescue Service
- Caucasus Institute
- Rescue Team "Lore"
- St. Grigor Lusavorich Medical Center
- Civilitas Foundation
- NGO Mission Armenia
- NGO Strategic Development Agency
- Other local NGOs
- Elola CJSC

Our partners in Azerbaijan

- Cabinet of Ministers
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Economic Development
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Central Bank of Azerbaijan
- Local authorities in the selected regions of operations
- State Committee for Property Issues
- Azeri Post
- State Water Enterprise
- Copyright and Standardization Agency
- Chamber of Accounts

International and Swiss Partners

- Action Contre le Faim (Spain)
- Contact Netz (Switzerland)
- CARE International
- Danish Refugee Council
- Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies (Switzerland)
- International Committee of the Red Cross
- International Finance Corporation
- International Monetary Fund
- International Organisation for Migration
- Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
- Mercy Corps
- Springfield Centre for Business in Development (UK)
- Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property
- Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets
- United Nations Development Program
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- World Bank
- World Food Program



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Swiss Cooperation Office South Caucasus



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Confédération suisse
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

State Secretariat for
Economic Affairs SECO

SDC and SECO

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is Switzerland's international development agency. With the instruments of bilateral technical cooperation, multilateral cooperation and humanitarian assistance, SDC supports developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America as well as the transition countries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union in their efforts to reduce poverty and to build stable and prosperous societies.

The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) is a part of the Ministry of Economy of Switzerland. Its Foreign Economic Directorate is SDC's partner in implementing and coordinating Swiss development cooperation. Its mandate is to foster sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction by promoting market-based economies, supporting conducive regulatory and economic policy conditions and enhancing the integration of developing and transition countries into the world economy.

Swiss Cooperation in the South Caucasus

Swiss assistance to the countries of the South Caucasus started in the 1980s as a response to the disastrous earthquake in Armenia and, later, the armed conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Since 1998, Swiss assistance to the countries of the South Caucasus is coordinated and supervised by the Swiss Cooperation Office in Tbilisi and its program offices in Baku and Yerevan in close cooperation with the Swiss Embassies in Tbilisi and Baku. The priorities of Swiss assistance to the region are described in the Swiss Cooperation Strategy South Caucasus 2008-2011, with the overall goal to contribute to poverty alleviation and to support the transition process to market economies and democratic institutions. The priority domain of technical cooperation is Economic Development and Employment, with a focus on rural market development, in all three countries. SDC's Humanitarian Aid implements activities in the fields of Recovery and Reconstruction and Disaster Risk Reduction in Georgia and Armenia. SECO's activities focus on Macroeconomic Policy Support to Azerbaijan. As a member of the Swiss-led voting group in the Bretton Woods institutions, this country is a priority partner country for Swiss financial cooperation.

Technical Cooperation Economic Development and Employment

Bilateral technical cooperation extends to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and focuses on the domain of Economic Development and Employment. The objective is to create a conducive and risk conscious business environment, which will lead to improvement and diversification of the income base in selected rural districts.

Projects focus on rural market development, aiming to strengthen selected agriculture value chains such as dairy or meat production or mixed farming and increase the livelihoods and economic security of the rural population. Intervention and analysis in the *Economic Development and Employment* domain is guided by the so-called *making markets work for the poor* approach. The program primarily targets farmer families and small rural enterprises, supporting them to develop from subsistence production to market-oriented, sustainable income generation.



Swiss rural development projects in the South Caucasus are implemented in the following geographic areas: in Georgia, in the regions of Racha-Lechkhumi and Samtskhe-Javakheti; in Armenia, in the Syunik region; in Azerbaijan, in the region of Agjabedi and Aghdam and the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan. The projects are mandated to Swiss or international or local implementing partners and supervised by the Swiss Cooperation Office. The financial allocation for technical cooperation is at 7-8 million CHF per annum.

Humanitarian Assistance Recovery and Reconstruction and Disaster Risk Reduction

Humanitarian assistance is provided to Armenia and Georgia in the fields of Recovery and Reconstruction and Disaster Risk Reduction. The objectives are to improve response capacities to disaster risks in Georgia and Armenia and to increase the capability to ensure social protection for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged population, including conflict-affected persons.



In the domain of Recovery and Reconstruction, humanitarian aid concentrates on support to the most vulnerable people, especially Internally Displaced Persons as a result of the armed conflicts over Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The programs foster durable solutions in socially conducive environments and support national governments in policy development in the fields of accommodation and social care. In the field of Disaster Risk Reduction, humanitarian assistance is strengthening national prevention and response capacities related to disasters.

Under its multilateral portfolio, Swiss humanitarian aid is also a longstanding donor partner to UN Organizations primarily UNHCR, with earmarking and secondment of specialist for core activities mainly in Georgia and to ICRC in the Region.

Interventions in the fields of Recovery and Reconstruction and Disaster Risk Reduction are self-implemented by the Humanitarian Aid unit of the Swiss Cooperation Office. This unit is also tasked to conduct a stand-by monitoring related to possible humanitarian crises in order to assure swift efficient response if requested. The financial allocation for humanitarian cooperation is at 6-7 million CHF per annum.

Financial Assistance

The Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) is focusing on non-oil private sector promotion, improved access to finance for SME through a strengthened financial market infrastructure and assistance for macroeconomic stability in Azerbaijan.

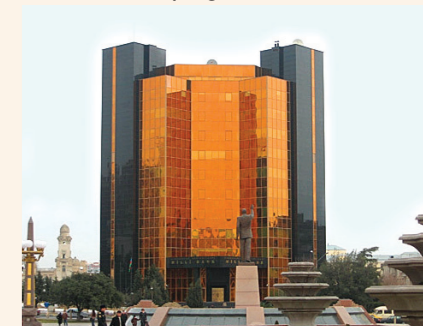
Economic Development and Employment

Since 2001, SECO and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) are partners in improving the business climate and fostering increased private sector investments in Azerbaijan. Within this partnership, IFC is implementing several SECO financed projects with different objectives: a) to improve Corporate Governance standards in financial and corporate sector; b) to stream-line business registration procedure and improve overall business environment in Azerbaijan and c) to improve leasing practices for local companies and enable access to long-term and low-cost refinancing capital.

Moreover SECO is providing focused capacity building activities in the area of intellectual property rights enforcement to support the WTO accession of Azerbaijan and improve framework conditions for trade and investment.

Macroeconomic Policy Support

SECO is funding projects with the aim to make fiscal processes and macroeconomic policies in Azerbaijan more transparent, efficient and sustainable. In this respect, in cooperation with the World Bank, SECO is assisting the Chamber of Accounts to improve the Public Finance Management system. Through technical assistance programs at the Central Bank of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Economic Development, SECO supports the strengthening of the macroeconomic framework particularly with respect to the financial programming. Moreover, together with the World Bank, SECO supports the State Enterprise Azeri Post to build an affordable and reliable payment system in the regions outside Baku.



Furthermore, jointly with the German development bank KfW, SECO is funding a comprehensive project to improve the water supply and sewage system in the cities of Ganja and Sheki. The financial allocation for financial cooperation is at 7-8 million CHF per annum.

Good Governance and Gender Mainstreaming

Good Governance and Gender mainstreaming are transversal themes under all Swiss cooperation programs in Eastern Europe and CIS countries. The rationale for the crosscutting theme of gender mainstreaming is to achieve, in the realm of Swiss-funded development intervention, equal opportunities and rights for women and men and to make best use of the often underutilized resources of women for development. Within the theme of good governance, the principles of accountability, transparency, non-discrimination, participation and efficiency are addressed in Swiss-funded development activities.

Results-Oriented Development Cooperation

Swiss-funded development interventions in the South Caucasus are planned and implemented to achieve sustainable, tangible and measurable results. The Economic Development and Employment portfolio with its core projects in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan is monitored against attributable outcomes in the field of rural income generation and market development on an annual basis.